



Director Jim Walker



Governor Bob Riley

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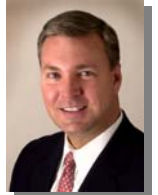
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Alabama

DHS QUARTERLY

Message from the Director

On Wednesday, May 31, 2006, the U.S. Department of Homeland released the results of the FY06 Program and Capability Review. Alabama received \$15.5 million for the FY06 Homeland Security Grant Program divided into four parts: State Homeland Security Grant Program (\$8.3 M), Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (\$6.0M), Metropolitan Medical Response System (\$0.9M), and the Citizens Corps Program (\$0.3M).



As you know, every state and territory completed the FY06 Program and Capability Review and competed for grant dollars based upon the effectiveness of the state's program and the terrorism risk factor assigned by the Federal government. Alabama's assigned risk ranking places us in the top 50% for all states and territories. Alabama's effectiveness ranking, as determined by US DHS and a panel of over 100 national experts, places us in the top 25% for all states and territories. This top 25% ranking, which is a competitive ranking, is the highest possible for the effectiveness of a state homeland security program. In the end, our risk and effectiveness computed to Alabama receiving a larger grant award than 37 other states and territories.

One of the components of the FY06 homeland security grant award was the development of investment justification. These are programs and projects we intend to develop with homeland security grant dollars. Alabama submitted twelve investment justifications: Agriculture Terrorism, Medical Resourcing; Medical Supplies; Fusion Cell; Information Sharing; National Incident Management System; Information Generation; Strong County Teams; Citizen Corps; Infrastructure Protection; Interoperable Communications; and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive (CBRNE).

Eight of Alabama's twelve investment justifications were selected as "exceptional," by a national peer review panel and ranked in the top 15% of all 586 investment justifications submitted nationwide. The remaining four investment justifications were rated "above average". There were no Alabama justifications ranked below "above average".

The second component of Alabama's ranking was risk, and Alabama had no input into this rating. US DHS was solely responsible for this rating and would not share risk factors with states, but we were notified that natural disasters such as hurricanes were not considered in the risk analysis. Alabama was ranked in the top 50% for risk. Governor Riley maintains that risk for natural disasters must be factored into the equation for determining risk. He has emphasized this point to Congress and US DHS leadership on many occasions.

Alabama's \$15.5 million grant award will continue to complement and build on the over \$100 million we've received over the past three years. Like all states, we would have liked a larger award in FY06. However, the dollars appropriated by Congress for the homeland security grant program are decreasing. Our goal is to continue to aggressively compete for homeland security grant dollars and build on Alabama's established record of success and recognized accomplishment. I urge your continued support of this effort.

Sincerely,

Jim Walker

Homeland Security County POC Meeting

The Alabama Department of Homeland Security received notice on May 31, 2006 that Alabama would be receiving \$15,578,025 for the FY2006 State Homeland Security Grant Program.

On June 19, 2006 the local homeland security Points of Contact met and were notified of their allocations and given specific guidance based upon task force recommendations for their FY06 funds. This guidance includes two initiatives each county will address in order to receive FY06 funds. Counties will be required to conduct a multi-disciplinary exercise designed to focus on incident command system and command and control functions. All counties will also be asked to establish a county emergency operations center (EOC) and have been provided guidelines for capabilities and equipment that meet Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program standards.

The EOC and exercise guidance will be coordinated and published in the next several weeks.

Buffer Zone Protection Plan

Alabama continues work on the \$1.4 million Buffer Zone Protection Plan (BZPP) Grant. This amount was among the largest awards to any southern state.

The state received funding based on the number of critical infrastructure (CI) sites that AL DHS was able to justify to US DHS. Alabama has twenty-eight approved sites and each site will receive \$50,000.

At this point, twenty-four buffer zone protection plans have been received by AL DHS and approved by US DHS. The remaining four plans should be received at AL DHS and forwarded for approval by US DHS in the fourth quarter.



Alabama Leads Nation in Number of Homeland Security Grant Awards

MONTGOMERY – Announced on May, 19 2006, Alabama received more federal homeland security grants for technology and equipment improvements in rural communities and small towns than any other state for the second consecutive year.

Alabama was awarded 76 grants under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP). The second highest number of grants was awarded to Ohio and Texas, both with 61. CEDAP is a competitive grant program that assists smaller jurisdictions by providing funds for antiterrorism equipment and technology. The awards provide equipment for communications interoperability, information sharing, chemical detection and personal protective equipment, together with training and technical assistance on using that equipment.

"When we created the nation's first state-level Department of Homeland Security, we put in place an aggressive and comprehensive strategy to secure these federal grants. That strategy is obviously working very well and our rural communities and smaller towns are seeing the benefits," said Governor Bob Riley. "We'll never ignore the security and public safety needs of our rural areas and small towns."

Alabama Department of Homeland Security Director Jim Walker said, "These grants are going to be used in 32 different Alabama counties and will provide valuable capabilities to every region in the state. The framework we have in place for growing homeland security capabilities and coordinating efforts statewide continues to greatly benefit our public safety community and the citizens we serve."

Last year, Alabama received the most CEDAP grants in the nation with 58, followed by New Jersey with 33 and Illinois with 32.

Governor Riley proposed the creation of the Alabama Department of Homeland Security in early 2003 and it was established by an act of the Legislature on June 18 of that year. Alabama was the first state in the nation to create its own legislatively enacted Cabinet-level Department of Homeland Security.

Schedule for County Homeland Security FY06 Grant Briefings

Tuesday, 1 August
Region 2 hosted by Henry County

Thursday, 3 August
Region 5 hosted by Walker County

Friday, 4 August
Region 3 hosted by Tuscaloosa County

Tuesday, 8 August
Region 1 hosted by Monroe County

Thursday, 10 August
Region 7 hosted by St. Clair County

Friday, 11 August
Region 6 hosted by Cullman County

Tuesday, 15 August
Region 4 hosted by Tallapoosa County

ACU-1000 Training Coming to a Location Near You

The Alabama Department of Homeland Security is working with Raytheon/JPS to provide a three-day workshop/training session on the ACU-1000 in each region.

We are looking at scheduling these three-day training sessions from mid-August through the end of September. We will not conduct training the week of September 4th because of the scheduled holiday.

We will be working with the regional POCs in the next few weeks to schedule the training dates and location for each region.

The training for operators will be one and a half days to train the trainer and technicians will receive three full days of training.

Each county will be asked to identify two people (1-operator and 1-technician) to attend the training. Each session will be limited in size to maintain an environment for more individual/personal training.

Hurricane Exercises

On May 23, 2006, representatives from the Alabama Department of Homeland Security and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency participated in a hurricane preparedness exercise in Atlanta, GA sponsored by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IV. The exercise took place over two days and included emergency planners and responders from several other southeastern states. The exercise scenario involved a hurricane striking the Atlantic Coast of the United States requiring the state and local responders to ensure that their processes for conducting an appropriate response and recovery operation are in place and well rehearsed.

This event was preceded by another exercise on May 23rd to practice the activation of the Alabama Emergency Operations Center in Clanton, AL. During this one day session, all of the various state departments and several private response entities were represented by those officials who would be called on to man the EOC during an actual activation in anticipation of a hurricane threatening the Northeastern coast of the Gulf of Mexico. This exercise gave the participants an opportunity to evaluate emergency response concepts, policies, plans, procedures and capabilities at the state agency level.

Also, on April 21st, the Governor and his Cabinet members, along with officials from each state department, the Red Cross and other private agencies, came together for an executive level exercise in Montgomery, AL. This event was designed to require each cabinet member to examine their department's preparedness status and response plan to identify any shortfalls that should be addressed prior to the beginning of the 2006 hurricane season. These state officials were joined by the then Acting Undersecretary of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, David Paulson, and Max Mayfield, Director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami, FL.

Share Your Info Update on 3D Visualization Initiative

In October 2005, the Alabama Department of Homeland Security (AL DHS) led an effort to discover new technologies in 3D visualization of state geographic data. This effort needed to be affordable as well as employ the power of internet based applications in an easy-to-use visualization tool. This tool retrieves imagery from a collection of databases, which allows geographic and terrain data to be displayed using internet streaming technology. The Department is working to continue partnerships with federal, state, and local entities to ingest massive amounts of data into tools that provide a useful and common operational picture for communities deemed necessary to protect lives and safeguard Alabama citizens in times of man-made or natural disasters.

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center Geospatial Training and Application Center (GTAC) has received and installed all hardware/software for the 3D Visualization Server. The project team also completed three days of training on the system in June 2006. To date, the team has begun ingesting data, meeting with agencies on how to use their data, and will continue holding data sharing meetings with state, county, and local agencies.

GTAC met with AEMA in Clanton to discuss early deployment of this system for the impending hurricane season. AEMA will assist in the rapid deployment of the tools to the 67 county EMAs and the eight regional communication vehicles. GTAC will also send out and collect endorsement documentation from various state and local organizations in support of statewide data sharing.

Real-time activities associated with the 3D Visualization tool includes a common operational picture for emergency personnel, emergency evacuation routing, situational awareness, vehicle and asset tracking, critical infrastructure mapping, identification of assets and vulnerabilities, visualization of risks, plume modeling and real-time sensors feeds such as video of an incident site, as well as implantation of protective measures during events.

Are you ready? BE READY

In September, Alabama will host “Be Ready Day” and “Be Ready Camp” in Huntsville in conjunction with US DHS designated National Preparedness Month. “Be Ready Camp” is an education platform for sixth graders in Madison County to learn about individual, family, and community preparedness.

“Be Ready Camp”, held at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville and running September 11th through the 14th, will offer the sixth graders an opportunity to learn about team building, participate in modified Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, and participate in a mock disaster exercise. The camp will conclude with “Be Ready Day” on September 14th when Governor Bob Riley presents each student with a certificate for completing the course.

The first “Be Ready Day” took place on September 10th, 2004 in Montgomery as a way to showcase public safety preparedness efforts and capabilities throughout Alabama. Hurricane Katrina caused the cancellation of “Be Ready Day” last year. “Be Ready Day” and “Be Ready Camp” are sponsored by the Alabama Department of Homeland Security, the Governor’s Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives, and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency.



National Infrastructure Protection Plan

On June 30, 2006, US DHS released the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP), a comprehensive risk management framework that clearly defines critical infrastructure protection roles and responsibilities for all levels of government, private industry, nongovernmental agencies and tribal partners. The NIPP builds on the principles of the President's National Strategy for Homeland Security and its companion strategies for the physical protection of critical infrastructure and key assets and the security of cyberspace.

"The NIPP is the path forward on building and enhancing protective measures for the critical infrastructure assets and cyber systems that sustain commerce and communities throughout the United States," said US DHS Under Secretary for Preparedness George Foresman. "The NIPP formalizes and strengthens existing critical infrastructure partnerships and creates the baseline for how the public and private sectors will work together to build a safer, more secure and resilient America."

The vast majority of the nation's critical infrastructure is owned and operated by private industry or state, tribal and local governments. The NIPP represents an unprecedented initiative at all levels of government and among private industry, tribal partners and nongovernmental agencies, to build an overarching structure that integrates critical infrastructure security efforts, sets protection goals and supporting objectives, and focuses resources according to risk.

HSPD 7 identified seventeen critical infrastructure and key resource sectors that require protective actions for a terrorist attack or other hazards. Those sectors include: agriculture and food; energy; public health and healthcare; banking and finance; drinking waters and water treatment systems; information technology; telecommunications; postal and shipping; transportation systems including mass transit, aviation, maritime, ground or surface, and rail and pipeline systems; chemical; commercial facilities; government facilities; emergency services; dams; nuclear reactors, materials and waste; the defense industrial base; and national monuments and icons. The National Infrastructure Protection Plan is available online at www.dhs.gov/nipp

Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center

Wireless Access Project

As part of the overall Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center (ACJIC) effort to upgrade communication, network and data available to the Homeland Security and Criminal Justice stakeholders within the State of Alabama, an 802.11 wireless network has been deployed at various points across Alabama.

This network will offer homeland security, criminal justice and public safety personnel the ability to access key information points to exchange data. This access is designed to:

- Be accessible via laptops, PDA and other tools that are 802.11 compliant
- Be accessible via automobile by driving within a "cone" of reception
- Be secured by using:
 - a. Encrypted data streams
 - b. Centralized account/password management
 - c. Use of VLAN's to separate wireless traffic from core networks
- Be accountable by using:
 - a. Audit logs to determine access
 - b. Remote management to control usage.

This project will utilize the Alabama Judicial System (AJS) network which currently covers 123 locations within the state and has a network presence in all 67 courthouses. These courthouses are key locations for local government and law enforcement personnel, and they will provide the initial "centers" for network connectivity.

Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center –Continued**LETS3**

LETS3 is a major upgrade to the extremely popular and successful Law Enforcement Tactical System (LETS). LETS3 is approximately half complete, and a beta version has been included within AlaCOP that will enable users to take advantage of the features that have been developed. It is being used extensively in intelligence training that is being sponsored by the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council (ATAC), proving that its value to homeland security is paramount.

Version 3 greatly improves upon the current version by providing increased user friendly operations allowing police use it in a vehicle. The officers enter a number or a name and the system will interpret what they are asking for and return the information to them.

Instead of only hitting the driver license, it will also hit the Name Master, which is an index file of all other criminal justice files. Icons will appear to indicate if this individual: has a record, is a sex offender (and the degree), has an alert out on him, has used a gun in a crime, and several other key indicators. A click on the individual will bring up more details and enable any of these icons to be clicked to get specific information from the database that contains the specific information that generated the icon.

In addition to this major interface upgrade, several additional files will be accessed under LETS 3, including revenue title, criminal case information, photo histories, additional jail records, court case document images, contact information, and maps of addresses.

SHARE

Secure Homeland Access and Reporting Environment (SHARE) is a system that was developed to share potential terrorist incidents, including information between the public and private sectors. SHARE is now fully operational and contains a complete management system for cases submitted.

In addition, the SHARE message center is integrated with the AlaCOP message center, an internet information source for the law enforcement community. Once AlaCOP is fully deployed, the Fusion Cell will be able to set-up open or restricted user groups within the message center enabling field officers to become more effective in the fight against terrorism.

PUSH

The State of Alabama provides another on-line system called PUSH, the Terrorism Incident Reporting Portal, which is located at <https://pushweb.alacop.gov>. The PUSH program encourages private sector security officers to report potential terrorism-related incidents. Additionally, the PUSH portal provides critical infrastructures directory, emergency response directory, sample emergency plans, research tools and the Daily Open Source Update.

PUSH has expanded dramatically, both in terms of subscribers (now approximately 100) and its information dispensing capabilities. Daily updates are made by way of non-classified documents which are of use to private industry. PUSH is a model for the country and is being seriously considered for use in the West Virginia/Ohio Valley area.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Briefs

DHS Names Lead Federal Officials for the 2006 Storm Season

<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5552>

April 26, 2006--The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced the unprecedented predesignation of five teams that will coordinate the Federal government's role in support of state and local governments in preparing for, and responding to, major natural disasters this storm season. In total, 27 federal officials have been appointed, each with unique expertise and considerable experience.

"Designating these teams now will give state and local officials a chance to plan, train, and exercise with their federal counterparts before a disaster strikes," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "It is imperative that officials at all levels of government, and able bodied citizens alike, understand emergency management roles and individual responsibilities going into this storm season."

Primary responsibility for disaster response has always been at the local level. The department appointed the following individuals to facilitate federal support of state and local governments for the Gulf Coast Region:

- Principal Federal Official (PFO): Gil H. Jamieson, FEMA Deputy Director for Gulf Coast Recovery
 - Deputy Principal Federal Official (DPFO): Captain Thomas F. Atkin, Special Assistant to the Coast Guard Chief of Staff
 - Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO): Nick Russo, FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer
- * Includes: Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana

In Alabama, Ron Sherman, has also been predesignated to support the lead FCO in their region, in the event that a storm impacts more than a single state.

DHS Releases Review of Nationwide Catastrophic Event Preparedness

<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5695>

June 16, 2006--The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued findings from a national assessment of the country's catastrophic planning capabilities. Responding to directives from President Bush and the Congress, following Hurricane Katrina, the Nationwide Plan Review (PDF, 174 Pages - 3.9 MB) looked at whether existing emergency operations plans for states and urban areas are sufficient for managing a catastrophic event. The Review also presents conclusions on actions needed by the federal government to improve and coordinate planning.

Conducted in all 56 States and territories and 75 urban areas over 6 months, the Nationwide Plan Review was the most comprehensive assessment of emergency operations plans to date relative to planning for a catastrophic event. Reviewers examined nearly 2,800 emergency operations plans and related documents with participation from more than 1,000 emergency managers and homeland security officials.

The two-phase review began with a self-assessment of key planning components. Then Peer Review Teams, composed of former state and local homeland security and emergency management officials, visited each site and assessed the plans against national standards developed just prior to Katrina. To provide an overall picture, plan components were assessed on a scale of "Sufficient," "Partially Sufficient," or "Not Sufficient" to manage a catastrophic event. The majority of components assessed fell into the "partially sufficient" category.

While most areas of the country are well prepared to handle standard disaster situations, the National Plan Review findings demonstrate the need for all levels of government across the country to improve emergency operations plans for catastrophic events such as a major terrorist attack or category-five hurricane strike. Several areas, including evacuation, attention to populations with special needs, command structure, and resource management, were areas needing significant attention.